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Message Text

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66665
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---------- 100489
R 032239 Z APR 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION MOSCOW INFO USUN NEW YORK, GENEVA MARCH 29, 1973 FROM SECSTATE WASHDC IS REPEATED TO YOU:
QUOTE

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E. O 11652: N/ A
TAGS: SENV, UNEP, UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL FUND

1. AS THE EMBASSY IS AWARE, PRESIDENT NIXON IN FEBRUARY 1 W PROPOSED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW VOLUNTARY UN FUND ON THE ENVIRONMENT, WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED BY THE UNGA LAST DECEMBER. THE TARGET FOR THE FUND IS $100 MILLION FOR THE FIRST FIVE YEARS AND SUBJECT TO THE NECESSARY CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL, THE PRESIDENT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE U. S. WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONTRIBUTE $40 MILLION OVER THIS PERIOD ON A 40/60 MATCHING BASIS. SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES ALSO HAVE MADE PLEDGES TOTALLING $41 MILLION AND OTHERS ARE EXPECTED TO DO SO. THE USSR, HOWEVER, WHILE EXPRESSING GENERAL INTEREST IN THE ACTIVITY, HAS NOT AS YET MADE ANY PLEDGE NOR HAVE ANY OTHER EES. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE SUBJECT OF A SOVIET CONTRIBUTION HAS BEEN OR IS SOON TO BE BROACHED WITH USSR DELS BY MAURICE STRONG, AND WE SENSE THIS MATTER
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IS UNDER CONSIDERATION IN MOSCOW.

2. WE ARE INTERESTED IN SEEING FUND GET OFF TO GOOD START AND WOULD HOPE SOVIETS COULD SEE THEIR WAY CLEAR TO ANNOUNCE A PLEDGE BY THE TIME OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNING COUNCIL HOLDS ITS INITIAL MEETING IN GENEVA JUNE 12-22. IT ALSO IS LIKELY THAT WE MAY BE QUESTIONED CLOSELY BY THE RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE AS TO WHY SOVIETS ARE NOT CONTRIBUTING. ACCORDINGLY, EMBASSY REQUESTED APPROACH MFA AT SUITABLE HIGH LEVEL TO INQUIRE ABOUT PROSPECTS OF SOVIET CONTRIBUTION, AND EXPRESSING OUR HOPE THAT PLEDGES FROM THE SOVS AND THEIR ALLIES WILL BE FORTHCOMING. IN SO DOING EMBASSY MAY MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A) THE U. S. AND THE USSR EVIDENTLY SHARE A STRONG JOINT TECHNICAL INTEREST IN WORKING EFFECTIVELY TOWARDS THE SOLUTION OF PRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS AS EVIDENCED BY THE BROAD AND UNPRECEDENTED BILATERAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT THEY CONCLUDED IN MOSCOW ON MAY 23, 1972. IN RECENT YEARS OUR TWO NATIONS ALSO HAVE ENJOYED GENERALLY GOOD COLLABORATION IN SOME OF THE MORE TECHNICAL UN AGENCIES - SUCH AS THE IAEA - WHEN WE HAVE HAD COMMON SCIENTIFIC INTERESTS THAT HAVE TRANSCENDED OUR POLITICAL DIFFERENCES. THE U. S. BELIEVES A SIMILAR POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP SHOULD BE FEASIBLE IN THE NEW UN ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME. MOREOVER, WE ANTICIPATE THAT THE UN ENVIRONMENTAL FUND WILL HELP SOLVE SOME IMPORTANT PROBLEMS THAT ONLY CAN BE DEALT WITH ON THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL. THUS WE EXPECT VIEW THAT THE FUND WILL REINFORCE RATHER THAN COMPETE WITH WORTHWHILE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES THAT MIGHT OTHERWISE BE PLANNED ON A BILATERAL OR REGIONAL LEVEL.

B) WE ALSO BELIEVE THE MORE INDUSTRIAL POWERS, AS THE GREATEST POLLUTER' S AND THE MOST SCIENTIFICALLY ADVANCED, SHOULD ASSUME A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN THE NEW UN ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM TO ASSURE THAT IT DEALS WITH THE MORE PRESSING GLOBAL PROBLEMS IN A RESPONSIBLE TECHNICAL MANNER. IT IS WITH THIS IN MIND THAT WE HOPE TO MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE FUND OF OUR OWN. FOR SIMILAR REASONS WE BELIEVE THE SUCCESS OF THE OPERATION WILL DEPEND, IN PART, ON THE BROAD SUPPORT OF OTHER
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SCIENTIFICALLY ADVANCED COUNTRIES SUCH AS THE USSR. U. S.

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PARTICIPATION IN THE FUND WILL BE BASED ON THE POSITION THAT THE FUND WILL BE DIRECTED TO PROBLEMS OF GLOBAL INTEREST AND WILL NOT BE UTILIZED FOR PURELY NATIONALLY ORIENTED PROBLEMS.

C) WE ALSO ARE SURE THE USSR IS VERY SENSITIVE TO THE FACT THAT THIS WILL BE THE FIRST UN TECHNICAL BODY HEADQUARTERED IN A DEVELOPING COUNTRY (KENYA) AND WOULD NOT WISH THE ABSENCE OF SOVIET AND EAST EUROPEAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO BE MISCONSTRUED BY THE LDCS.

3. EMBASSY REQUESTED ADVISE SOVIET REACTIONS SOONEST SINCE WE MAY BE PRESSED FOR INTO CONCERNING THEIR PLANS AT HOUSE AND SENATE AUTHORIZATION HEARINGS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 5 AND 16. ROGERS UNQUOTE ROGERS

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